

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first paragraph on page 2 of the specification as amended in the January 7, 2003 submission to read as follows:

The object of the present invention is to make use of development of adhesives, and produce a cost-effective partial stiffening of elastic tapes. To attain this object, a stretchable elastic ~~self-adherent~~ band is provided with crosswise rigid reinforcements. These reinforcements are formed through the application of a liquid material to the elastic tape in the form of strips of beads, which liquid material makes a solid connection with the tape, i.e., adheres to the tape, in this state and is cured thereafter to obtain its required stability, i.e., its stiffness.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 4-5 of the specification as amended in the January 7, 2003 submission to read as follows:

FIG 2 shows the adhesive reinforcement stiffening strip **2** seated on the surface of the open structure **5** of the elastic tape **1**. Its extensions **8** have penetrated the loose portion **5** of the elastic tape and solidly adhere to it. The stiffening strip in this embodiment is a homogenous mass, preferably an adhesive, and is applied in strips transversely to the longitudinal direction **L** of the tape **1**. When the homogenous mass is applied, it makes a solid connection with the tape, and then obtains its required solidity by means of a curing process. The adhesive can be one which cures in a period of time sufficient for production and can be one which is well tolerated when in

contact with the human skin. The adhesive may, further, be a 2-component adhesive, may cure through the action of UV radiation, or may cure by means of a temperature change. One of skill in the art may glean further advantages and characteristics of the invention from the drawings and the associated description given above. A preferred adhesive is Loctite 3321, a one-component UV acrylate adhesive, which is applied in liquid form and contains optical initiators. When this adhesive is radiated under blue light or exposed to UV radiation, the activation of the optical initiators starts the curing process.

Please amend the second full paragraph on page 5 of the specification as amended in the January 7, 2003 submission to read as follows:

Another embodiment of the present invention is a longitudinally elastic tape as described above, where the homogenous material of the stiffening strip **2** consists of an adhesive, which is applied in liquid form. In the process, the liquid adhesive makes a firm connection with the elastic tape, either by adhering to the surface or by penetrating at least one extension **8** into the loose surface structure **5** of the elastic tape **1**. The liquid adhesive thereafter obtains the required solid properties, i.e., its stiffness, by curing.